

the administration of their own plan, since the bill clearly states:

—pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plan.

Mr. Speaker, the province of Quebec, like Alberta, British Columbia, and even probably the province of Ontario, does not want to be dictated to by Ottawa. Ottawa may be willing to contribute 50 per cent of the incurred cost, since it is not the federal government which will pay for it, the Canadian taxpayers will be paying the shot.

Furthermore, they will have to pay for a federal bureaucracy besides paying for a provincial one. A duplication of expenditures to provide Canadian citizens with insured medical care services. Why such duplication of expenditures? Why not give back immediately to the provinces their own taxation fields which were taken away from them during world war II, between 1939 and 1945. This was the positive promise made by the then prime minister of Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie King, who said: until the war is over, in the name of urgency, we must take over those taxation fields, but afterwards we shall give them back to you. That was never done after the war.

At noon, the University of Montreal students asked me this question: what did you, the federalists—because we are the federalists—do when confronted with conscription in 1942? Mr. Speaker, I am ranging now a little afield. Only I told the students that in the fight over the famous referendum, I was among those who were against it. In the name of the province of Quebec, one of those who were in favour of it was the late former minister of justice, Mr. Ernest Lapointe, an eminent French Canadian, who sold us out in every way he could.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to say that Bill No. C-227 is another attack, not only against the province of Quebec, I repeat, but also against the provinces which want their autonomy to be respected, such as Alberta. Alberta has its own medicare and the doctors agree with the government, the patients are happy with their administration, and the proof is that in the last provincial elections in Alberta, 61 out of 65 ridings remained creditist and faithful to Social Credit.

Mr. Speaker, the medicare program was then in force in Alberta, and its premier, Mr. E. C. Manning, is right when he objects to this federal intrusion in provincial matters.

The premier of British Columbia, Mr. Bennett, is right in objecting to this intrusion.

Medicare

Those who fight most for an over-all program to save everyone or let everyone perish, are precisely my friends of the N.D.P. who are seated on my right. They had a program in Saskatchewan during 17 years of N.D.P. or C.C.F. administration—I do not know what name will come after—

• (9:00 p.m.)

[English]

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

Mr. Caouette: The plan has not been working.

An hon. Member: I have been studying it.

Mr. Caouette: You may have been studying it, but you have never met with the doctors or you would know that there are not enough.

An hon. Member: We met with the people.

Mr. Caouette: You may have met with the people, but you probably have not experienced the situation when you were sick and needed a doctor.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

I would suggest to the hon. member for Villeneuve that he address the Chair.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, according to the rules, that is true, and I abide by your ruling. On the other hand, I was interrupted, not by the Chair, but by someone who did not seem to know what he was saying, and that is why I addressed myself directly to him, so that we may not both appear to be imbeciles.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that the experiment has been made in Saskatchewan, under the C.C.F. government—or the New Democratic Party—but, in any event, the experiment was a failure. I heard earlier a member of that party tell me that the people were with them, and I say once more, that when someone is sick, Mr. Speaker, it is not up to the public to decide what the right treatment is; it is up to doctor.

[English]

He does respect the position because he knows that some day he will need one.

Mr. Winch: I will also need an undertaker some day.